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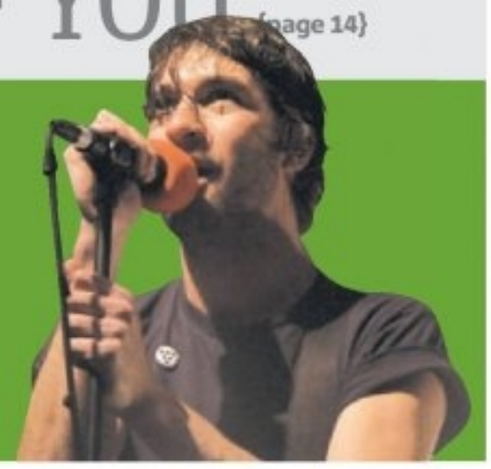
#1 FREE DAILY NEWSPAPER IN CENTER CITY

JAPANDROIDS READY TO ROCK ALL OF YOU {page 14}



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PHILADELPHIA
Wednesday, December 5, 2012

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Revival. The Met

▶ What was once in total disrepair has now become holy at the Metropolitan Opera House. The congregation hopes to transform it into 'Met City.' {page 06}

Advocacy group seeks answers in beheading of Camden toddler

Chevonne Thomas had twice lost custody of her son before regaining it earlier this year Report confirms she was high on drugs when she decapitated the boy and stuck his head in the freezer in August {page 02}

wellbeing

Don't eat so much that you're asked to play Santa Claus

The holidays are fun for feasting, but go easy this year Ho, ho, hold the extra calories! {pages 19-20}

Fairmount Park gets festive {pages 30-31}

Who cares about the royal baby? {page 10}

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Killer mom's toxicology report reveals PCP, pot

Report confirms initial claims of what led to gruesome murder-suicide Prosecutors close case

Toxicology results revealing PCP and marijuana in the system of 34-year-old Chevonne Thomas, who in August decapitated her 2-year-old son and placed his head in a freezer before slitting her own throat, raised more questions about why the Camden woman was entrusted with the child's care after he was twice removed from her custody due to substance abuse.

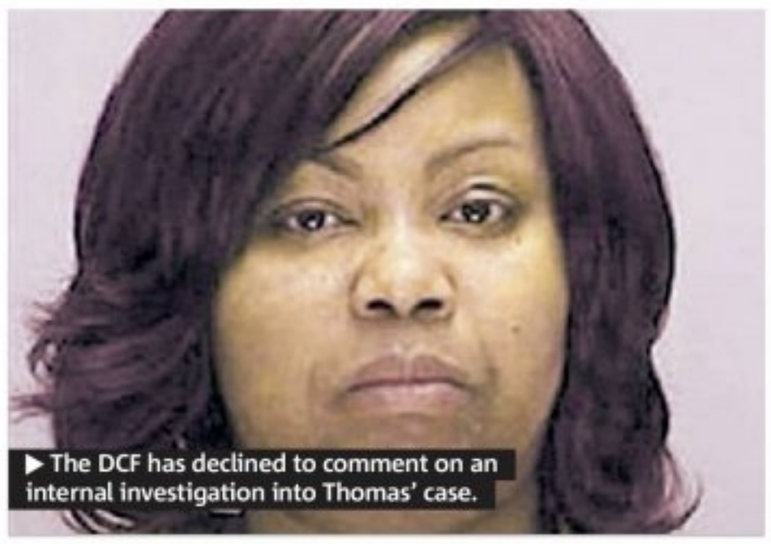
Zahree Thomas was taken into state custody twice, but each time he was returned after eight months.

"I think we would question what happened during those eight months," said Cecilia Zalkind of nonprofit Advocates for Children of New Jersey. "What did the state do to maintain and monitor the relationship between the child and parent?"

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families said Thomas last tested clean for drugs in June. She was visited by a DCF worker in July, after which the department was preparing to close the case, according to the agency.

"That's one area where we would have a lot of questions," Zalkind said.

She said Advocates for Children has more questions than answers, in part because the DCF denied their requests for information regarding the treatment provided to Thomas.


▶ The DCF has declined to comment on an internal investigation into Thomas' case.

Quoted

"What were the assurances the child was safe and the state could step out completely?"
ZALKIND

'Our work is done'

"PCP can, in general, lead to people having delusional, aggressive behavior," Camden County Prosecutor's Office spokesman Jason Laughlin said yesterday. "That's something we've seen on a pretty regular basis." He said that Thomas' drug use appears to have been chronic. "We know through investigation that she did have a PCP habit." Laughlin said the prosecutor's office is not involved in that review. "It's a closed case," he said. "The crime was a homicide and the person that committed it is dead, so unfortunately our work is done on it."

Timeline

before a tragedy

According to a statement released by the DCF in August:

- **Zahree was first taken into state custody on Nov. 28, 2010,** after the DCF received allegations that Thomas had left Zahree unattended in a car while under the influence of PCP-laced marijuana. Thomas regained custody on July 11, 2011, after successfully completing substance abuse, mental health and other forms of counseling.
- **Thomas again lost custody on Aug. 2, 2011,** after testing positive for PCP during a random drug screening. Zahree was returned on April 3, 2012, after Thomas tested negative for drugs during several random tests and participating in therapy, visitation and medication monitoring programs.
- **Thomas' last clean urine test was on June 28,** and she was last visited by a DCF caseworker on July 3, the month before the slaying.
- **The DCF was preparing to close Thomas' case after reviewing it on July 23.**

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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In the news

Hit-and-run driver sought

Police are looking for the driver involved in the deadly hit-and-run of a 52-year-old woman Monday in West Philadelphia. Police said the victim was crossing the intersection of 48th Street and Chester Avenue when a silver 2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer mowed her down and kept going. The woman died on the scene. The vehicle was recovered in a rear alleyway on the 4700 block of Larchwood Avenue.
METRO

In the news

$350K

Amount spent each month by former Sixers star Allen Iverson to pay creditors and purchase clothing, groceries, dry-cleaning and entertainment, according to divorce documents obtained by TMZ. Iverson has a monthly income that amounts to a mere $62,500, plunging him further into debt, the website reported.
METRO

In the news

Boy, 4, injured by gunfire Monday

GRAYS FERRY. A 30-year-old man and his 4-year-old son are both hospitalized after being struck by gunfire Monday night.

Police said the bullets began to fly shortly after 7:20 p.m. on the 2700 block of Daly Terrace near the Philadelphia Housing Authority's Wilson Park Apartments.

The father, who was reportedly loading the child into the back of a minivan, was shot in the arm and back and suffered a graze wound to the head, according to investigators. He is in stable condition at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

The man's 4-year-old son was shot once in the stomach and rushed to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where he is also in stable condition.

Police could not say if the adult victim was the intended target of the shooting. There is no word on a motive, and no arrests have yet been made.
METRO/AW

Dead, mistreated horses taken from Philly stable

NORTH PHILADELPHIA. Humane officers with the Pennsylvania SPCA yesterday removed one dead horse and rescued three

▶ A rescued horse

mistreated horses from what they say is an illegal stable on the 3200 block of North 11th Street.

The PSPCA said officers have been investigating the stable, whose owner allegedly rented out stall space illegally and kept horses in "a series of ramshackle structures."

The rescued horses were taken to PSPCA headquarters for veterinary care. Animal cruelty charges are expected to be filed against both the owner of the property and the owner of the dead horse, according to the PSPCA.
METRO/AW

Nutter re-affirms 'Sister City' status

TIANJIN, CHINA. Mayor Michael Nutter signed a memorandum of understanding yesterday re-affirming a relationship with this "Sister City" as part of his five-day trip. The agreement encourages trade development, education cooperation and an exchange program. Drexel University, Fox Chase Cancer Center, White and Williams LLP, and the Philadelphia Orchestra signed similar agreements with partner institutions.

Nutter, who also visited Beijing, is expected to return to the city tomorrow.
METRO

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In the news

Missing Radnor teen sought

DELAWARE COUNTY. Police are looking for a 13-year-old Radnor girl who may have disappeared with a man she met online.

Authorities said Savanna

Marie MacMullett was last seen at 4 p.m. Monday wearing blue jeans, a black North Face jacket and black sneakers which had pink highlights with the word "Osiris." Police believe MacMullett may be with Ashley Ryan Hareford, 20, who she met online. An arrest warrant has been issued for Hareford for corruption of minors.

Anyone with information on the girl's whereabouts are asked to call police at 610-688-0503. **METRO/SDL**

William Penn, BCG subject of complaint

PHILADELPHIA. The NAACP and two parents groups said they plan to file an ethics complaint against the William Penn Foundation and private donors who funded a controversial school restructuring plan from Boston Consulting Group.

The groups accuse donors of hiring BCG to lobby the School District of Philadelphia to expand charters and propose the closure of 60 schools. The foundation's former chief resigned last week citing differences of opinion. **METRO**

Weighed Down
By Weight Issues?
Bariatric surgery may be the answer.
"As a single mother, the most important thing is to be there for my son. It was hard for me to admit that when it came to my weight, I might need someone supporting me. After years of struggling with the ups and downs of ineffective dieting, I made the decision to go to Jefferson. Their Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery team made me feel completely comfortable and has continued to be my biggest cheerleader, with monthly support groups that have helped me lose – and keep off – 115 pounds. It's great to know that I am healthy enough to be there for my son. And that Jefferson will be there for me."
Read my entire story and register to attend the upcoming free seminar listed below at jeffersonhospital.org/myweightloss
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Sandy slows down Delta refinery

- Newly purchased Delco fuel refinery saw a decline in output
- Earnings down for No. 2 carrier

$25M
Delta Air Lines earnings decline in November because of Hurricane Sandy

Delta Air Lines said Tuesday that superstorm Sandy had reduced November revenue by about $30 million as it dented earnings by about $25 million.

The No. 2-ranked U.S. airline behind United Continental canceled thousands of flights in wake of Sandy.

While unit revenue, also known as passenger revenue per available seat mile, rose 2.5 percent in November from a year earlier, Delta said that key industry measure was about 1 percentage point lower than it would have been without the impact from Sandy.

Delta also said that Sandy, which barreled through the U.S. Northeast in late October, had caused problems with the start-up of the Pennsylvania refinery it purchased earlier this year, slowing output and efficiency levels.

As a result, Delta said it expected its fourth-quarter fuel costs to be $3.20 to $3.25 a gallon, compared with the range of $3.15 to $3.20 it projected last month. **REUTERS**

Politics. Advertising

▶ Opponents called the sign a form of blight and said its placement may jeopardize federal highway funding because of its proximity to both I-95 and I-676.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Council again OKs digital sign

A City Council committee yesterday gave preliminary approval to a seven-story wall wrap that would envelop the Electric Factory at Seventh and Callowhill streets in a giant digital billboard. Mayor Michael Nutter previously vetoed legislation allowing the sign, but building owner Myron Berman is now offering to donate 20 percent of its advertising revenue to three nearby schools. **METRO/AW**

Does your child have symptoms of Bipolar Disorder?

Symptoms of bipolar disorder include:

- Extreme mood shifts that occur quickly
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Qualified participants must:

- Be 12 to 17 years of age
- Have a parent or caregiver that is willing to provide support during the research study

Those who qualify receive all study-related care and study medication at no cost, plus compensation for time and travel.

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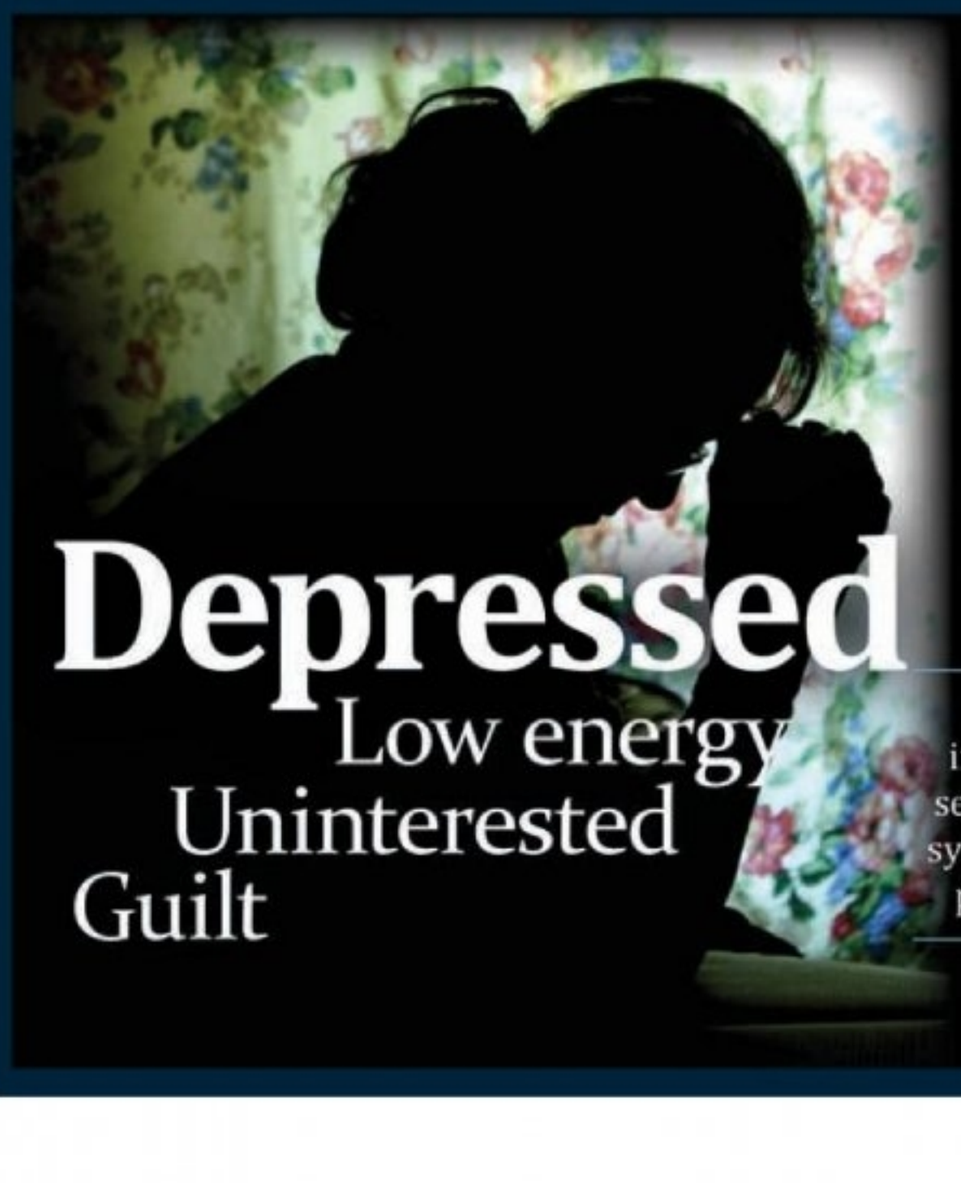

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- Strong feelings of guilt and/or suspicion
- Having unusual experiences such as hearing voices or sounds, or seeing things that aren't real

Medical researchers in your area are currently enrolling participants in a clinical study evaluating an investigational drug for the treatment of a severe form of depression. Participants must be 22-75 years old and be experiencing symptoms of depression. Participation will include a confidential evaluation by a psychiatrist, all study related visits, physical exams, and study drug at no cost.

For more information, call toll-free **1.877.477.4995**

In the news

Students ill from drink

NEW JERSEY. Several students at William R. Satz School in Holmdel fell ill on Friday after drinking Marley's Mellow Mood, a relaxation beverage sold by school vendor Chartwells Dining Services. Officials said yesterday the product should never have been available at the middle school.

"Marley's Mellow Mood Drinks and Teas are an unauthorized purchase of a beverage product not approved for sale in schools managed by Chartwells," Mid-Atlantic Vice President Nancy Quinn said. "The product in question has been removed from schools completely and will not be available. The on-site manager has been removed pending our further investigation."

Marley Beverage CEO Kevin McClafferty stressed that the drink is not intended for children. METRO/AW

Historic theater could become one-stop shop

Congregation hopes to further renovate historic concert hall on North Broad ◆ Lots of work remains

It was about 18 years ago when Rev. Mark Hatcher Sr. first had what he calls a vision to move his small congregation into the Metropolitan Opera House on North Broad Street, a building that had long sat vacant and fallen into disrepair.

Hatcher hadn't even seen the inside of the historic theater when a judge gave him 30 days to stabilize the property if he wanted to use it.

"It was uninhabitable," said the 49-year-old pastor of Holy Ghost Headquarters, standing inside the facility, which dates back to 1908. "We had to just come in and we had maybe about 20-, 40-, 60-yard Dumpsters just hauling stuff out of here. It was ruined."

After investing an estimated $10 million, mainly from private fundraising, and purchasing the massive edifice, Hatcher and his congregation are thinking even bigger. Amid a resurgence on North Broad near City Hall, Hatcher said he would like to incorporate residences, retail and other uses into underutilized parts of the building that sit walled off by tarps and aging stairwells – a concept he calls "Met City."

1908
The Metropolitan Opera House dates back to 1908.

Hatcher said he has spoken with developer Eric Blumenfeld, who is responsible for other recent developments on North Broad, about a partnership that would bring the structure close to its former glory.

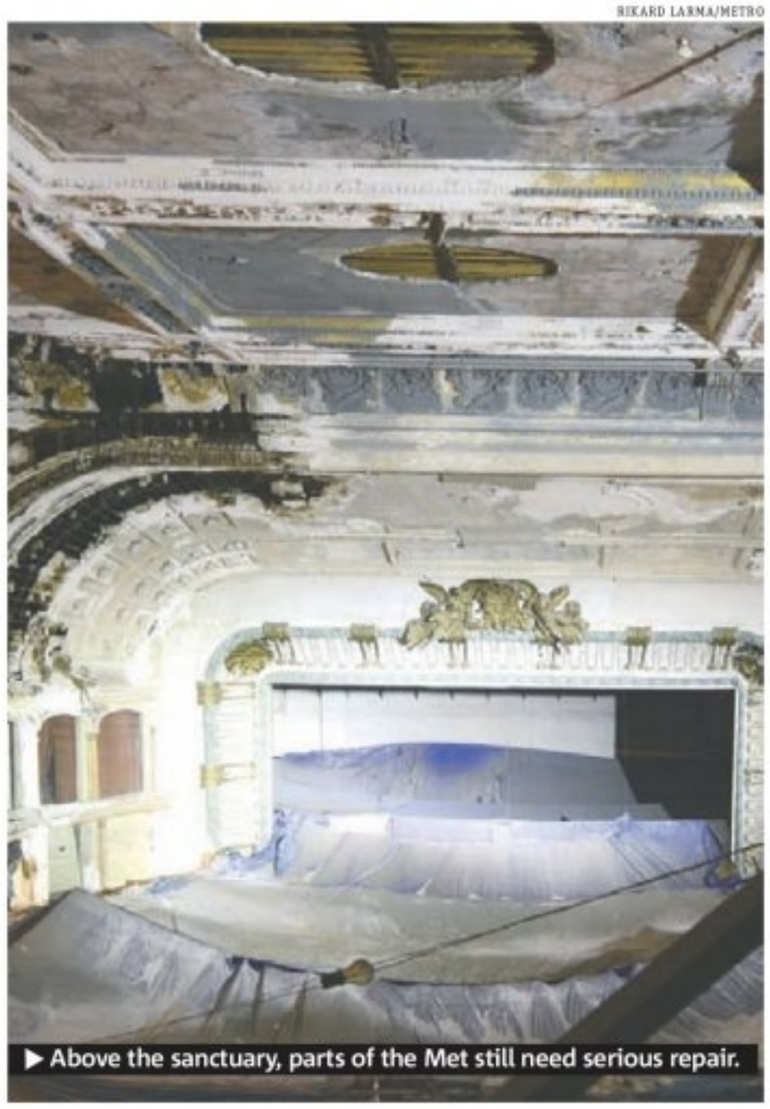
"[We want] a one-stop shop that we can actually cater to the total needs, the total man," said Hatcher, who also acted as general contractor for the renovation of the first floor. "It looks impossible, but basically it's just cosmetic work that needs to be done."

Hatcher had experience, having renovated two other old North Philadelphia buildings before relocating to the Met.

"One was the bear, one was the lion and this was the Goliath, the giant," he said.

SOLOMON D. LEACH
sleach@metro.us

RIKARD LARMA/METRO



▶ Above the sanctuary, parts of the Met still need serious repair.

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Your brain on booze; GOP fights ... with itself

The real teenage wasteland: Your brain

Gene links to teen binge drinking

Scientists have unpicked the brain processes involved in teenage alcohol abuse and say their findings help explain why some young people have more of a tendency to binge drink.

A study published in the Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences journal found that a gene known as RASGRF-2 plays a crucial role in controlling how alcohol stimulates the brain to release dopamine, triggering feelings of reward. "If people have a genetic variation of the RASGRF-2 gene, alcohol gives them a stronger sense of reward, making them more likely to be heavy drinkers," said Gunter Schumann, who led the study.

Alcohol and other addictive drugs activate the brain's dopamine systems. REUTERS

2.5M People die worldwide each year from the harmful use of alcohol

Homes going green

Home price jump highest in six years

Home prices posted their biggest annual jump in more than six years in October in a sign the housing sector continues to recover, data analysis firm CoreLogic said yesterday.

CoreLogic's home price index rose 6.3 percent compared to October a year ago, the biggest increase since June 2006 and the eighth consecutive increase in home prices nationally on a year-over-year basis, CoreLogic said.

Home prices fell 0.2 percent in October from September but this was due to seasonal factors as the housing market enters the off season, CoreLogic said. REUTERS

NFL tragedy

Belcher violence may never be explained

The murder/suicide committed on Saturday by Kansas City Chiefs football player Jovan Belcher left the National Football League, its fans and health professionals struggling to understand what drove him to do it.

Belcher, 25, shot and killed his 22-year-old girlfriend Kasandra Perkins, the mother of his 3-month-old daughter, in front of his own mother at home before driving to Arrowhead Stadium where he shot himself dead in the parking lot. REUTERS

Have cliff, will fight

Fiscal cliff prompts GOP infighting

Republicans in the Congress attacked each other yesterday over their leadership's "fiscal cliff" offer to Democratic President Barack Obama as a group of governors visited the White House to voice concern about the impact on the states of the year-end tax-and-spending deadline. The disarray in Republican ranks over how far to compromise the party's anti-tax stance could complicate what are expected to be intense negotiations between House Speaker John Boehner and Obama. Each will need the backing of their respective troops in Congress in order to bargain credibly. REUTERS

Life on Mars?

GETTY IMAGES

Rover finds carbon hints on Mars

NASA's Mars rover Curiosity, dispatched to look for the chemical ingredients and environments for microbial life, has found hints of carbon, though whether this building block for life on Earth has played a similar role on Mars is unknown, scientists said.

"Just finding carbon somewhere doesn't mean that it has anything to do with life, or the finding of a habitable environment," said lead scientist John Grotzinger. Even with carbon and water, life needs other chemicals, such as sulfur and oxygen, to form. REUTERS

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Swiss warn US, UK about huge spy leak

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The headquarters of Britain's MI6 intelligence agency in London

Secret information on counter-terrorism shared by foreign governments may have been compromised following a massive data theft by a senior IT technician for the NDB, Switzerland's intelligence service, European national security sources said.

Intelligence agencies in the United States and Britain are among those who were warned by Swiss authorities that their data could have been put in jeopardy, said one of the sources, who asked for anonymity when discussing sensitive information.

Swiss authorities arrested the technician suspected in the data theft last summer amid signs he was acting suspiciously. He later was released from prison while a criminal investigation by the office of Switzerland's Federal Attorney General continues, according to two sources familiar with the case.

The suspect's name was not made public. Swiss authorities believe he intended to sell the stolen data to foreign officials or commercial buyers.

A European security source said investigators now believe the suspect became disgruntled because he felt he was being ignored and his advice on operating the data systems was not being taken seriously.

One of the sources familiar with the investigation said that intelligence services like the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, also known as MI6, routinely shared data on counter-terrorism and other issues with the NDB. Swiss authorities informed U.S. and British agencies that such data could have been compromised, the source said. **REUTERS**

Investigation

- Swiss news reports and the sources close to the investigation said investigators believe the technician downloaded terabytes, running into hundreds of thousands or even millions of printed pages, of classified material from the Swiss intelligence service's servers onto portable hard drives. He then carried them out of government buildings in a backpack.

In the news

Iran says it has drone, but US denies losing one

DUBAI. Iran said yesterday it had captured a U.S. drone in its airspace over the Gulf in the last few days, but the United States said there was no evidence to support the assertion.

The U.S. Navy said it had not lost any unmanned aircraft in the area. The four-foot surveillance drone is deployed in the region by the United States military but also by other countries.

In Washington, White House spokesman Jay Carney said, "We have no evidence that the Iranian claims are true."

The incident highlighted tensions in the Gulf as Iran and the United States demonstrate their military capabilities in the vital oil exporting region in a standoff over Iran's disputed nuclear program. **REUTERS**

Metro Magic toy drive

1 Log on to **www.metro.us** and look for the Metro Magic logo at the top left.

2 One click on the logo will take you to a "wish list" we have set up via a secure link on **Toysrus.com**. Once there, you can see all the toys we've already requested, with more added daily.

▶ All the gifts purchased will be sent directly to Metro's office. It's the third year of Metro Magic, where we ask our readers to go online to buy toys for underprivileged children.

The response so far this year has outshone our readers' previous efforts, with dozens of toys being delivered to our New York, Boston and Philadelphia offices daily.

In the next few days, we'll be working with our local charity partners to make the first delivery of holiday toys to underprivileged children in our cities. Our photographers will be there to record the little ones' delight — and we'll publish the images before the holiday season so Metro's readers can see for themselves just what joy they are bringing this year. Below is an image of some of the toys delivered to our office yesterday. **METRO**

MILES DIXON/METRO

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The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Alec Baldwin is feeling inspired, Kathy Griffin is speculating, Paris Hilton is on the move and Rebel Wilson is thinking about her health.

@ABFoundation: I'm gonna write a book. A novel. It's called A PRIVATE MISUNDERSTANDING. Can you guess what it's about? Can you guess what happens?

@kathygriffin: I bet Justin Bieber can blow a mean whistle

@ParisHilton: Just landed in Dubai. Next stop New York City.

@RebelWilson: I am going to go on a new cleanse - my weekend cleanse of cutting everything out of my diet except for chocolate DID NOT WORK!

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Random sources state the obvious about Will and Kate

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ The scene outside King Edward the VII Hospital in London where Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge, is resting after suffering from severe morning sickness.

The news of **Will** and **Kate**'s impending arrival has the tabloids in a tizzy — and scrambling for anyone, anyone at all to be quoted about it. I've compiled a sampling of the best of these random, mostly anonymous sources, all of whom state how Kate and Will will be good parents (as if anyone is going to say that she's going to become a baby-smacking alcoholic and he's planning on raising the baby as a racist). The best of the bunch, with an added bonus of **Snooki** (say what?) commentary:

▶ ***"Kate will be a firm but fair mother. Kate will let her children have fun and freedom, but she will also make sure they do what is best for them."*** **A "PAL" OF THE DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE, PER US WEEKLY**

"I'm sure she will be an amazing mom."

SNOOKI TO THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

▶ *"I can see William wanting to take time off in the modern paternity-leave style, so that he bonds with his child."* **A "FAMILY FRIEND" TO WWW.DAILYMAIL.CO.UK**

▶ ***"[Kate and Will] both try to be as normal as possible in their private lives. ... Everyone's always said what great parents they'll be, since they are such a caring couple and very relaxed. They will lavish love on their children."*** **JESSICA HAY, A "CHILDHOOD ACQUAINTANCE" OF KATE'S, TO AUSTRALIAN TABLOID NEW IDEA**

▶ *"This couple want to raise their baby just like us."* **JANE RIDLEY AND DANA SCHUSTER**

Hollywood's most overpaid actors

Poor **Eddie Murphy**: He's just not drawing in the bucks like he used to.

Thanks to such bombs as "Meet Dave," "Imagine That" and "A Thousand Words," he's now Hollywood's most overpaid actor, per Forbes. In its annual list, determined by the difference between star salaries and their films' box office take, Murphy displaced **Drew Barrymore** for the No. 1 spot. **Katherine Heigl** came in at No. 2, with Oscar winners **Reese Witherspoon** and **Sandra Bullock** in the Top 5.

Talking points

IRS seized Lohan's bank accounts

More trouble for **Lindsay Lohan**: The IRS has reportedly seized the "Liz and Dick" star's bank accounts because of her outstanding debt, according to TMZ. Lohan previously had liens filed against her for unpaid taxes from 2009 and 2010, totaling more than $233,000, but the government apparently got tired of waiting for her to make good on the debt. She is said to also owe money for 2011.

Travolta's alleged lover sues star

A man who told the National Enquirer that he had a "steamy affair" with **John Travolta** while working as his pilot from 1981 to 1987 is now suing the actor, insisting he never signed a confidentiality agreement that would bar him from talking to the media about his time with the actor, according to TMZ. The man, **Doug Gotterba**, claims Travolta's lawyer, **Marty Singer**, threatened a lawsuit after the story was published.

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Holiday window decorations from around the world

A shot of one window from Bloomingdale's 59th Street

1. Polar Bears love Louis Vuitton (they make a lot of money, apparently). This furry beast is the star of the holiday window at the Louis Vuitton department store in Paris.

2. French department store Printemps Haussmann partnered with The House of Dior in designing their Christmas window display which features 74 handcrafted dolls wearing iconic Dior outfits.

3. Did you know that Macy's was the first store to feature a holiday window in the early 1870s? Here is their 2012 holiday window at their Harold Square location.

4. The holiday window at Henri Bendel in New York City.

1: MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP; 2: DOMINIQUE CHARRIAU/WIREIMAGE; 3: JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGE; 4: JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY IMAGES FOR HENRI BENDEL; 5: NEILSON BARNARD/GETTY IMAGES FOR BLOOMINGDALE'S

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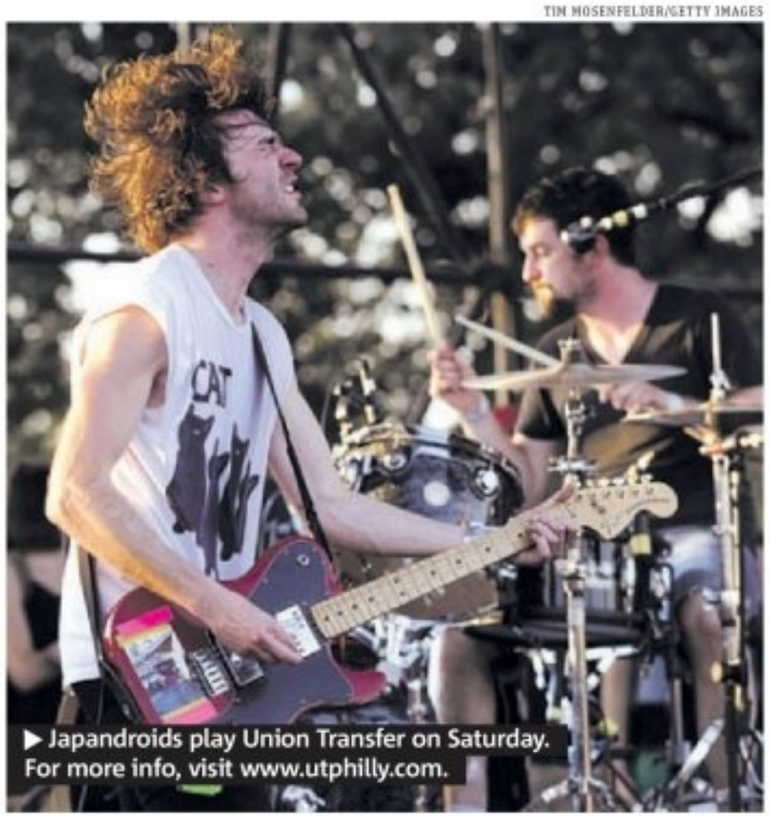
A 'Celebration' for two

Japandroids say fewer members means fewer problems But figuring out how to entertain more fans in bigger venues can be a bit of a challenge

TIM MOSENFELDER/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Japandroids play Union Transfer on Saturday. For more info, visit www.utphilly.com.

Japandroids' success with their second album, "Celebration Rock," has found them graduating from the smaller clubs — from which their stage-dives and bro-hugs aesthetic was born — into much larger rooms, on an exhaustive tour that will bring them for the first time to Australia, Korea and, of course, Japan. "I feel like we live on the road," drummer and vocalist Dave Prowse says from Tampa. "We just tend to tour pretty hard, and not really take a lot of breaks. ... Because we were kind of a struggling local band for two years, as soon as we got the opportunity to tour ... we had a hard time saying no."

In the early days, working as a duo made that sort of schedule more feasible, he says: "In a six-piece, it's probably harder to convince six people to go on the road for two years."

Quoted

"In a six-piece, it's probably harder to convince six people to go on the road for two years." PROWSE

Prowse says the higher profile has brought with it bigger crowds, and a new set of logistical concerns for such an intimate-punk venue style act: "A big thing for us as a two-piece is trying to fill that space on a stage that big. ... That's definitely part of the reason why we brought someone in to do lights, just to help give people something to see, especially when you're a little further from the audience."

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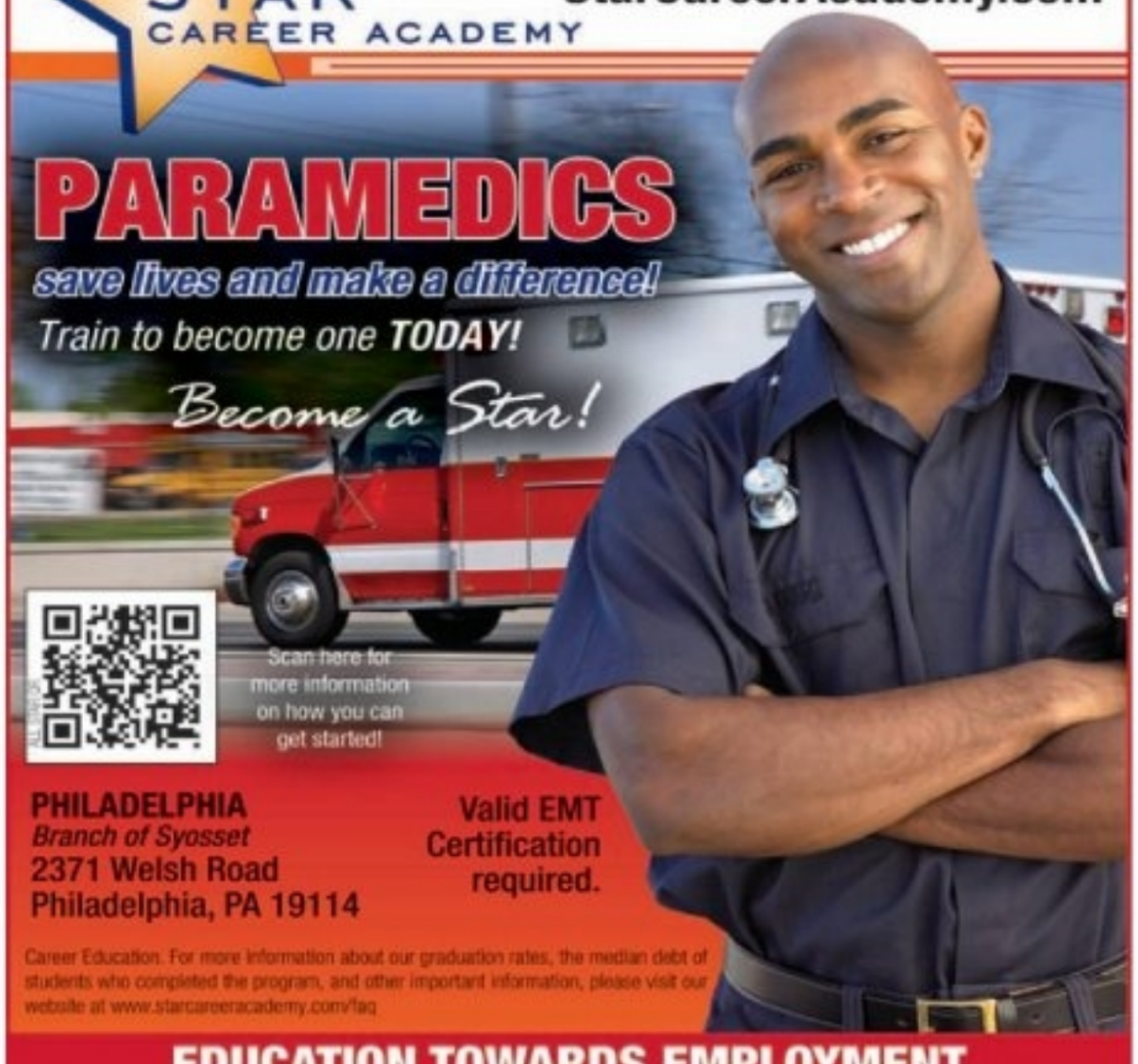

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TV watch list

'American Horror Story'

DRAMA. Santa Claus is the one on the naughty list when a terrifying St. Nick visits the residents of Briarcliff.
10 p.m., FX

BYRON COHEN/FX

▶ Santa Claus is coming to town on "American Horror Story."

'Arrow'

DRAMA. Oliver's still a little new to this whole vigilante thing himself, which hasn't stopped him from mentoring revenge-seeking Helena, aka the Huntress. **8 p.m., The CW**

'Suburgatory'

DRAMA. Tessa misses the 'burbs — but mostly dad, we think — when she spends Christmas in the city with her mom.
8 p.m., The CW ● **AMBER RAY**

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▶ Stephen Amell stars in "Arrow."

In the news

Gaga goes shopping in Jackson's closet

Lady Gaga purchased 55 items belonging to late singer Michael Jackson in a weekend auction that raised more than $5 million, a portion of which will be donated to charity, Julien's Auctions said. Highlights from the sale included the late singer's "BAD" tour jacket, raising $240,000, and a white glove selling for $192,000.

Following Sunday's auction, Gaga told her 31 million Twitter followers that "the 55 pieces I collected today will be archived & expertly cared for in the spirit & love of Michael Jackson, his bravery, & fans worldwide."

REUTERS

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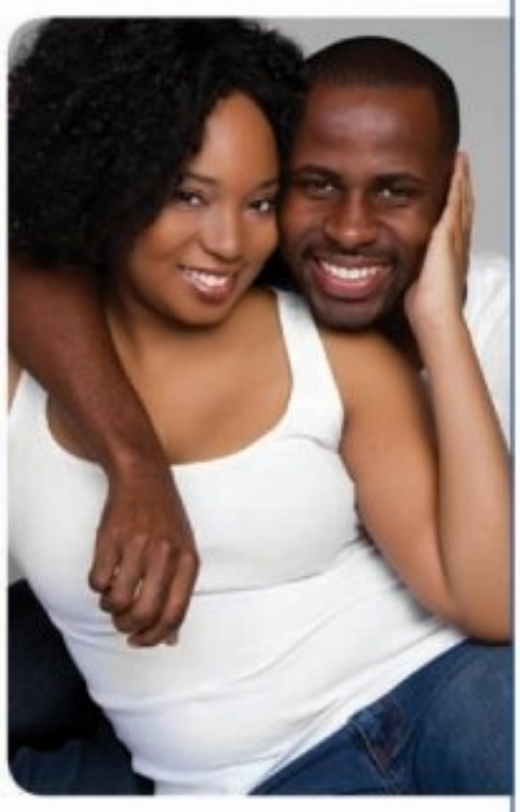

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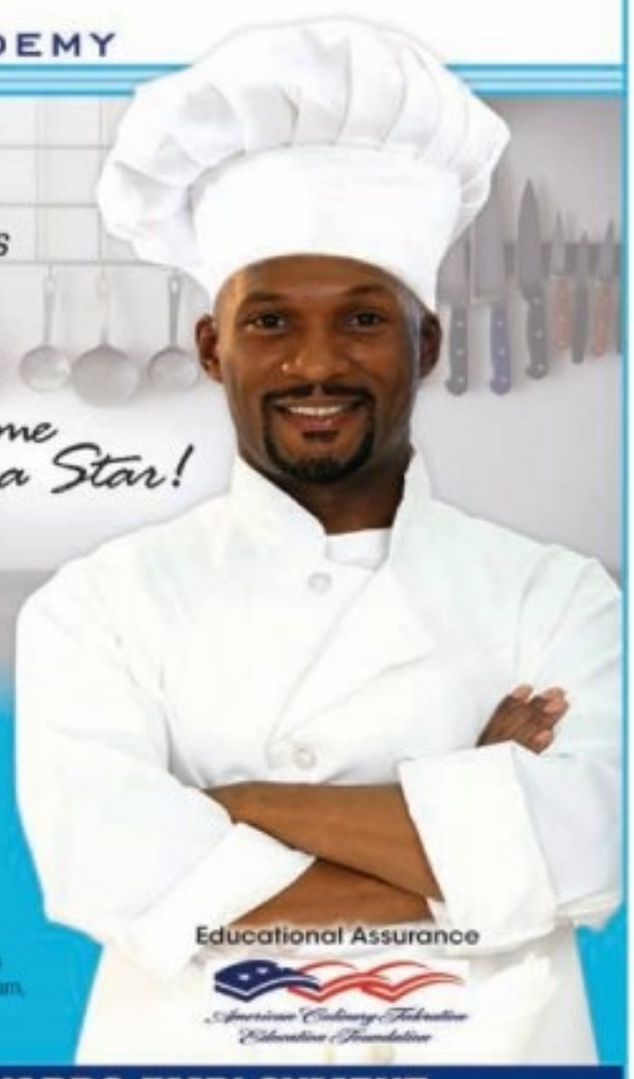

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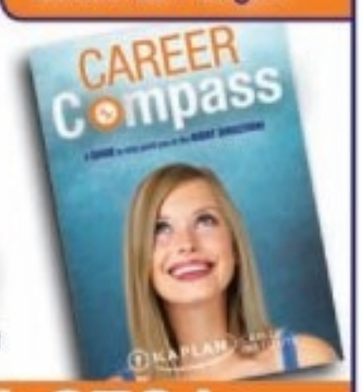

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Avoiding the cartoon claptrap

Sidescroller

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From a certain perspective, video games already are cartoons. Sure, many of them may be muscle-bound cartoons with a penchant for gun violence but they are cartoons nonetheless. So, then, playing a game based on your favorite preexisting cartoon character makes perfect sense. Let's review a couple!

'Adventure Time: Hey Ice King! Why'd You Steal Our Garbage?!'

System: Nintendo 3DS
Publisher: WayForward
Rating: ●●●●◍

As a games reviewer, nothing brings upon more dread than the prospect of reviewing something based on a current TV show or movie. They usually suck the suck of a thousand sucks. Thankfully, "Adventure Time" breaks this curse.

In short, this game is a "Zelda" clone populated by locations and characters from the "Adventure Time" universe. If you are a fan, you'll get a kick out of how well the designers preserve the cartoon's heart. If you aren't, you'll just like exploring, fighting monsters and collecting items. The only downside is the adventure time it takes to complete "Adventure Time" is awfully short.

▶ The beast of "Beauty and the Beast" makes a cameo in "Epic Mickey: Power of Illusion."

'Epic Mickey: Power of Illusion'
System: Nintendo 3DS
Publisher: Disney Interactive Studios
Rating: ●●●●◍

The good? Mickey runs and jumps through famous locations almost as well as a certain mustachioed plumber. The game also features cameos from just about every Disney character ever. The bad? The designers shoehorn in a lot of needless touchscreen functionality that gets old fast.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Advertorial

FREE MEDICATION DOSE

Philadelphia Doctors Treat Erectile Dysfunction

BY STEVE MUELLER
Men's Health Consultant

WAYNE • Local physicians at a new medical clinic in Wayne are so sure their medication will help men with erectile dysfunction, they are offering the first 37 callers a free in-office medication dose.

Erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation have long been a problem for millions of men, in spite of the popularity of Viagra, Cialis and Levitra. Many men aren't helped by these pills or cannot take them due to adverse side effects.

Pennsylvania Men's Medical Clinic custom blends over 180 combinations of medications for each patient. "That's why our success rate is so high," says Dr. Kevin Hornsby, M.D. "We help men as old as ninety-four, with diabetes, prostate surgery and heart conditions. Regardless of their age or medical history our results everyday are amazing."

All medications are FDA approved, and no surgery is involved. "We adjust the prescription for a man's performance to 45-minutes, an hour, 90-minutes or longer," according to Dr. Hornsby, "and patients see results right in our office. After climax the patient stays erect the entire period of time. This allows them to achieve a second climax and adequately satisfy their partner. No other medication can do this. We offer a simple guarantee: If you don't respond to the medication on the first visit the office visit is free." With that guarantee, local patients have nothing to lose.

Openings are filling quickly for the free in-office medication dose, after that the normal fees will be charged. Patients are assured of utmost privacy and professionalism with private waiting rooms and an all-male staff. Further information is available by calling **(215) 995-2410**.

Pennsylvania Men's Medical Clinic, 125 Strafford Ave., Suite 310, located on the Main Line in suburban Wayne, PA. Exit I-476 on Lancaster Ave./US-30 and go west 2 miles to Strafford Ave. Turn right, building is one block down on your right.

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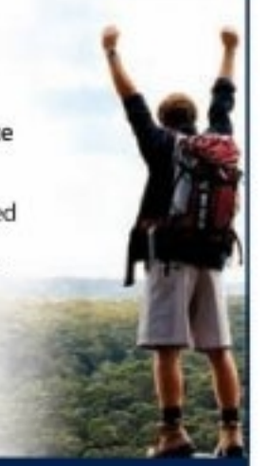

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EATING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Cheese plates and cocktails and cookies, oh my!
Make a plan and stick with it this party season

Holiday parties can be fun, but they're torture for anyone who's trying to lose weight. Mental toughness coach Steve Siebold, who is the author of "Die Fat or Get Tough: 101 Differences in Thinking Between Fat People and Fit People," offered Metro some tips on avoiding the dreaded extra poundage that can creep on this holiday season.

DIGITAL VISION

▶ Snacking before a party can help you avoid the cookies once you're there.

Set your intention: "Write down your goals," Siebold says. "The biggest part of sticking to a diet is making the decision. Without that, you will pile the weight back on."

Make a list, check it twice: "Have a plan before you walk in the door," he advises. "Be prepared for which foods you will eat. Take a long look at the food and ask, 'Is it good for me, or will it harm me?' We get hungry every three or four hours. Plan for that."

Have a snack beforehand: "Eat something healthy before you go out. Then you won't be so hungry that you eat the bad party food."

Nix the worst culprits: Cakes, cookies and candies — take them off your plate. "Avoid anything that is made with refined sugar," he says.

Watch the booze: "If you drink too much, your judgment gets compromised," Siebold cautions. "You start eating all the food you shouldn't. Beer is probably the worst for calories.

47%

Of women admit that they gain an average of four to five pounds over the holidays in winter months. *Source: Jenny Craig and FITNESS magazine*

LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

Health notes

Break out the Christmas sweaters

Stand Up to Cancer's Ugly Sweater Holiday Campaign is an excuse to wear your tackiest garb this holiday season. First, pick how many days between now and Dec. 31 you'll wear your ugliest holiday sweater. Then, create a fundraising page at **www.su2c.org/ugly** for the days you don yours. You also can throw an ugly-sweater party and have guests donate. All proceeds go back to the foundation.

Back away from the food court

These new bars are smart picks for your next holiday shopping trip.

Seasonal Clif Bars: This year's flavors — Spiced Pumpkin Pie, Peppermint Stick and Iced Gingerbread — benefit Protect Our Winters, a nonprofit fighting climate change. *$1.39, grocery stores*

Health Warrior Chia Bars: Sneak some chia seeds into your day with these 110-calorie bars, which boast 1,000 milligrams of omega-3s. The chocolate peanut butter flavor just got a delicious makeover. *$1.89, Whole Foods*

Balance Bar Dark: These three new dark-chocolate varieties pack 13 grams of protein. *$1.49, www.drugstore.com*

MEREDITH ENGEL

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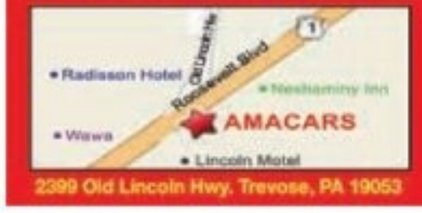

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Nutritionist Joy Bauer's picks for slimming holiday drinks

Rich, creamy eggnog, indulgent hot cocoa and fancy champagne cocktails are as much a part of holiday fun and tradition as the delicious food. But here's the not-so-merry part: Many of these seasonal libations pack in more calories, fat and sugar than the cake, cookies and fudge. As my holiday gift to you, I've created these celebratory sippers that deliver all of the good cheer without weighing you down. Bottoms up!

PHOTOS: JOHANNAH SAKIMURA

▶ This waist-friendly eggnog is about half the calories of a traditional pour.

▶ Enjoy a small squirt of whipped cream on your holiday hot cocoa for just 20 calories, Bauer says.

Slim-Style Eggnog

Eggnog is definitely at the top of Santa's naughty list. An 8-ounce pour, made with a "triple threat" ingredient list of cream, whole milk and egg yolks, will cost you a shocking 350 to 450 calories — and overload your system with 12 grams of saturated fat and more than 14 teaspoons of sugar. My slim-style version, made with low-fat milk and vanilla pudding mix, satisfies your holiday hankering for half the calories and sugar — and a fraction of the fat.

Directions: Combine 5 cups of cold 1-percent milk, one package of vanilla instant pudding mix, ¾ teaspoon rum extract and ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg in a blender; pour into a pitcher and refrigerate for at least 20 minutes to allow the eggnog to set up. When you're ready to serve, pour into glasses and sprinkle on a little extra nutmeg. ***Makes five (1-cup) servings; 175 calories per serving***

Peppermint Hot Cocoa

Get cozy on the couch with my lightened-up take on this holiday classic. It has half the calories of coffee-shop hot cocoa but tastes every bit as rich and chocolaty.

Directions: Heat 3 cups of skim milk in a small saucepan over medium-high heat until the milk is hot and starting to steam. Remove the pan from the heat and whisk in 4 teaspoons sugar, ¼ teaspoon each peppermint and vanilla extracts, a pinch of kosher salt and ¼ cup semisweet chocolate chips. Continue to whisk until the chocolate is completely melted. Pour into mugs and garnish with whipped cream if desired. ***Makes three (1-cup) servings; 175 calories per serving***

— For more holiday health tips, visit ***www.joybauer.com*** *and follow Joy on Facebook and Twitter* ***(@joybauer).***

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Letters

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Thank you for acts of kindness; they are never forgotten

RE: "PHOTO OF COP GIVING SHOES TO HOMELESS MAN GOES VIRAL" (METRO, NOV. 30-DEC. 2) NYPD officer Larry DePrimo proved once again that New York's Finest cares about its citizens. Officer DePrimo while on duty in the Times Square area came upon a homeless man without shoes or socks. He went to a shoe store and bought him a pair of all-weather boots and than went to another store and bought him socks. What really got to me: He went to put them on him, a true act of kindness. Now there are some who don't know what it means to be homeless, but I do. I was homeless for a time in the winter of '75 after the Vietnam War and found myself roaming the streets of Hempstead. I was just out of the Navy and had few friends or family members who could not help. It was a kind act of a stranger from Nigeria named Cyril who saw my plight and gave me shelter. Officer DePrimo is an example of a fine police officer who went above and beyond the call of duty, like many of our police officers do on a day-to-day basis. Officer DePrimo, saw a fellow human being hurting and did lend a helping hand. Now to all police officers you see tell them this: Thank you for all that you do.

FREDERICK R. BEDELL JR., VIA E-MAIL

▶ An act of kindness

As I was running some Christmas errands during lunch yesterday in Boston, I stepped off the train at Charles MGH. The train started to pull away from the station, but then stopped. The conductor opened his window, stuck his head out and shouted, "Where are you heading?" Just then, I saw an elderly blind man walking alone, hugging the wall and struggling to find his way along the platform with a red-and-white striped walking stick. He replied, "Downtown Crossing." "Follow my voice," the conductor instructed, "this is your train." The blind man, who was obviously fearful of falling onto the train tracks, slowly walked toward the conductor's voice and stepped onto the train. Thank you to the conductor who helped the blind man today — we notice your acts and are grateful.

BILL GOTFREDSON, VIA E-MAIL

I'm a boy, I'm a boy! But society won't let me act like it

RE: "PAGING GLORIA STEINEM?" (METRO, DEC. 3) Patti Stanger mentions that "men are getting more passive and [women] are getting stronger." Apparently Stanger wasn't paying attention in the 1990s, when the education system began punishing boys for acting like the males they were. Now we have a whole generation of drones who seem to have no direction or ambition. The anti-male crowd got what they wanted, but was it really worth it? I don't think so.

ROB DONNER, VIA E-MAIL

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Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Instead of scattering your forces all over the place, you should give your most meaningful objectives top priority. Taking a lot of potshots won't improve your marksmanship.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** If, through poor judgment, you reopen an old wound, there is a strong possibility that you'll only make the same mistakes you made previously. Live and learn.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Leave your credit cards at home if you plan to go anyplace where extravagant items are likely to be displayed. You might be inclined to do more than window-wish.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** The delicate line between being your own person and being detrimental to a team effort might get crossed if you place importance on the former.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Rumblings of an increased workload are likely to be coming your way. It behooves you to get cracking immediately. If you don't, the roar will only get steadier and louder.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** No matter how badly you desire it, it's not advisable to try to become all things to all people. You'll be left feeling inadequate when you fail at your impossible task.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Don't be too hasty when trying to finalize a matter of critical importance. It's much more important to do the best job rather than the fastest.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** There is a good chance you could still be holding a grudge against someone, so for the sake of inner peace, it behooves you to avoid this person as much as you can.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** This is likely to be an unusually good day to sort out any disturbing financial affairs. Your budget can be improved upon by trimming needless expenses.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Although you may feel that you can easily come out ahead in a competitive situation, don't underestimate your adversaries. They could be stronger than you think.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** It behooves you to keep all of your endeavors as basic as possible. Be careful not to further complicate situations that are already a trifle trickier than you'd like.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Under most circumstances, you're the type of person who is reasonably cautious about taking huge risks, yet today your discipline might be rather low. Try to be extra-careful.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Gondolier's "road"
6 Footnote note
10 Those against
14 Relish tray item
15 Pesters
16 Bard's river
17 "The Luncheon on the Grass" painter
18 Pelts
19 Like autumn leaves
20 Fritz's pub
22 Nanny
23 "Little piggies"
24 Playhouse
26 Common sense
29 Gymnastics move
31 Web addr.
32 Turkish honorific
33 Arctic hazard
34 Threw the dice
38 Whit
40 San Francisco hill
42 Sherpa's sighting
43 Brawl
46 Lincoln's st.
49 Holiday mo.
50 1040 pro
51 "Soapdish" actress
52 Molecular biology topic
53 Qualm
57 Porpoise relative
59 Wide awake
60 Bell-shaped animal
65 Dressy event
66 Ranch concern
67 Racoonlike mammal
68 Church or Stonestreet
69 Summit
70 German pistol
71 Risque
72 Bandleader — Kenton
73 Flee to the JP

Down
1 Remove tangles
2 Mountain range near China
3 Prime-time hour
4 Circumvent
5 Remits (2 wds.)
6 Herb tea
7 Smear
8 Wading bird
9 Future bks.
10 Idly
11 Easily seen
12 Like Vikings
13 Dirty look
21 Recount
22 First-century emperor
25 Half of a Heston role
26 Very thin model
27 Russian epic hero
28 Bye, in Bristol (hyph.)
30 Lowly laborers
35 Advance
36 Harrow rival
37 Met celeb
39 Precision
41 Obligated
44 Dr.'s visit
45 "Gal" of song
47 "Big Daddy" Ives
48 Save from a landfill
53 More judicious
54 Bow or Barton
55 Heirloom
56 Cockpit button
58 Run — of the law
61 Ms. Bombeck
62 "Othello" heavy
63 Dance movement
64 Engage
66 Contains

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8				5		9	3		
6			1						
	9		7		3		1		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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	1	5		3				
			9			4	8	7
			7	8	4			6
	5						7	
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4		6						5

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

H	A	H	A	■	T	U	S	K	S	■	I	S	L	E
U	S	E	R	■	A	S	K	E	W	■	N	O	O	K
M	U	M	S	■	R	H	I	N	E	S	T	O	N	E
■	■	■	E	N	D	E	D	■	L	O	O	T	E	D
■	R	E	N	O	I	R	■	S	T	U	N	■	■	■
B	E	C	A	M	E	■	I	C	E	■	E	E	N	Y
I	T	L	L	■	R	I	V	E	R	■	S	L	O	E
R	I	A	■	■	S	O	N	■	■	P	T	A	■	■
C	R	I	B	■	P	A	R	E	D	■	L	A	I	R
H	E	R	R	■	R	A	Y	■	R	E	A	S	O	N
■	■	■	A	V	E	C	■	C	A	N	N	O	N	■
A	E	R	I	E	S	■	M	O	P	E	D	■	■	■
C	L	O	S	E	S	H	A	V	E	■	I	D	E	A
T	I	D	E	■	E	I	G	E	R	■	N	A	R	D
S	E	E	D	■	D	E	I	T	Y	■	G	Y	R	O

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Eagles rookies worth the price of admission

All eyes on Foles, Brown down stretch Breakout performances may determine future Up next: Bucs

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The speedy Bryce Brown could form a lethal backfield in 2013 when teamed with LeSean McCoy — if Brown can stop fumbling.

To quote the great Russell Crowe in "Gladiator," "Are you not entertained?"

The Eagles might not have anything to play for in these last four games, but watching the development of two rookies, Nick Foles and Bryce Brown, should be enough to keep the tailgates going.

Yes, it isn't the desired outcome anyone wanted. There will be no Super Bowl parade, not even a single playoff pep rally. Yet there is some small satisfaction to be had from watching two guys who could be counted on heavily in 2013.

For Foles, it's a chance to prove he can play in the NFL. After two shaky starts, the third-round pick impressed in Dallas. His 793 passing yards are the most for a rookie since Donovan McNabb in 1999. With a few more solid performances, he'll at least put himself in the mix to be the Eagles' starting quarterback when training camp opens.

"Each week he's come in and he's kind of been the replacement guy. Now he is the starter, and we'll see how he does with that on his plate and see how he handles it," coach Andy Reid said. "I don't expect much to change with him. He handles things in a pretty cool manner, and I think he'll continue to do that."

Brown — aside from his fumbling epidemic — is gashing opponents for huge chunks of yardage. His 347 yards in two starts leads the entire NFL during that span and marks the second-highest total for an Eagle in consecutive games. He's also the first rookie in franchise history to score at least two touchdowns in back-to-back games.

"I know that I can play, I know that I can contribute," Brown said. "Coach is going to rely on me and Dion [Lewis] to kind of take the pressure off of Nick [Foles] a little bit. So we've got to prepare and [be] ready for it."

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Metro's NFL power rankings | by Mike Greger

1

GETTY IMAGES

TEXANS (11-1)
It seems like everyone agrees Houston is the best team in football, yet no one is picking them to win the Super Bowl — especially when they win with Arian Foster touching the ball just 14 times. Kind of odd. Texans have already clinched a postseason berth and set franchise marks for wins.

2

FALCONS (11-1)
Some Saints players were beating their chests and telling the Falcons *they* were the team to beat in NFC South. Not true. Defense collected five picks and second title in three years.

3

BRONCOS (9-3)
Demaryius Thomas is new Reggie Wayne, doubling his yardage and TD totals from 2011. Think that happens with Tebow under center?

4

49ERS (8-3-1)
We'll chalk up loss to inferior St. Louis as case of familiarity (remember, these two tied earlier). Colin Kaepernick is going to make mistakes — but will good outweigh the bad?

5

PATRIOTS (9-3)
Look at Pats icing game by grinding it out on ground —16-play, 7-minute drive, led by Stevan Ridley — instead of putting it in Tom Brady's hands.

6

RAVENS (9-3)
Inexcusable home loss to a Charlie Batch-led Pittsburgh team. Missed out on chance to sew up division title and crane kick the Steelers out of postseason party.

7

PACKERS (8-4)
Green Bay is missing star power everywhere you look and still tied for NFC North lead. If they ever get healthy, watch out. And if they don't get healthy, this isn't a team you want to see in the playoffs.

8

BEARS (8-4)
Hard-luck injuries to Brian Urlacher and Tim Jennings threaten to derail what could be a special season in the Windy City. Dec. 16 game at Soldier Field looms large.

9

GIANTS (7-5)
Lost opportunity to slam door on NFC East, but moved the ball well, just settled for too many field goals. If we've learned anything, never count Eli out when weather gets colder and Tom Coughlin's face redder.

10

SEAHAWKS (7-5)
Russell Wilson is flying under radar with so many talented rooks. He has three fourth-quarter comebacks, same as Luck and one better than RG3.

11

BENGALS (7-5)
Andy Dalton has 10 touchdowns (vs. just two interceptions) in his last four starts, all Bengals wins.

12

COLTS (8-4)
After another improbable win Colts interim head coach Bruce Arians said, "Some teams find ways to win. Others don't." It's pretty simple, really. Some teams have Andrew Luck. Others don't.

13

REDSKINS (6-6)
Who would get the bigger ovation in our Nation's Capital right now ... RG3 or Barack Obama? You know the answer, and it's not close. *(And we mean that with no disrespect, Mr. President).*

14

STEELERS (7-5)
If Big Ben can endure a strong week of practice, he may start Sunday. If that happens, we'll jump back on the bandwagon — as long as Charlie Batch isn't driving it.

15

BUCCANEERS (6-6)
Eleven penalties is killer against anyone, not to mention Denver. Luckily, Bucs get cupcake this week, in a home game vs. Philly.

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No reunion: Victorino lands with Red Sox

RONALD C. MODRA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Victorino spent the latter part of 2012 with the Dodgers.

Boston isn't messing around at this week's winter meetings in Nashville, as the Red Sox made their second significant signing in as many days yesterday by reportedly inking free-agent outfielder Shane Victorino.

The contract is for three years and $39 million, the same numbers given to Mike Napoli. Victorino will likely be the team's starting right fielder, although he's spent much of his career in center.

Victorino, 32, has played in the big leagues for nine seasons, most notably the Phillies for eight years before being shipped to the Dodgers at last season's trading deadline.

The Flyin' Hawaiian was rumored to be on Ruben Amaro's radar this offseason as he searches for a center fielder. However, there was no reported offer from the Phillies.

Best known for his defense and speed, Victorino has also been noted as a good clubhouse guy, which is an attribute Red Sox brass have said they are looking for.

In nine seasons, Victorino is a career .275 hitter, while batting .279 and .255, respectively, the past two seasons. As a switch-hitter, he gives the Red Sox more of a left-right lineup balance but hits better from the right side. He is a career .301 hitter against lefties, and just .267 against righties.

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Phils GM shoots down Upton-for-Lee rumors

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Did Phils really inquire about Justin Upton?

The first bombshell rumor involving the Phillies fell yesterday when a report claimed they were discussing a Cliff Lee for Justin Upton swap.

The report, filed by ESPN's Pedro Gomez, stated that the Phils would acquire the 25-year-old right fielder in exchange for Lee, cash considerations and prospects. However, GM Ruben Amaro Jr. shot down the proposed deal.

"I don't comment on rumors, but that one is absolutely and unequivocally false," Amaro told reporters at the Winter Meetings.

Amaro has repeatedly said that the Phils are interested in adding a center fielder first. Problem is, there aren't many left. With B.J. Upton, Angel Pagan and Shane Victorino off the market, the Phils are basically down to Michael Bourn (free agent) or Josh Hamilton (free agent) — unless they pursue the Rockies' Dexter Fowler in a trade. METRO

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Addazio leaves Temple for Boston College, Owls begin coaching search

Football coach exits after two seasons Looks to rebuild struggling BC program Temple AD confident in finding high-level replacement

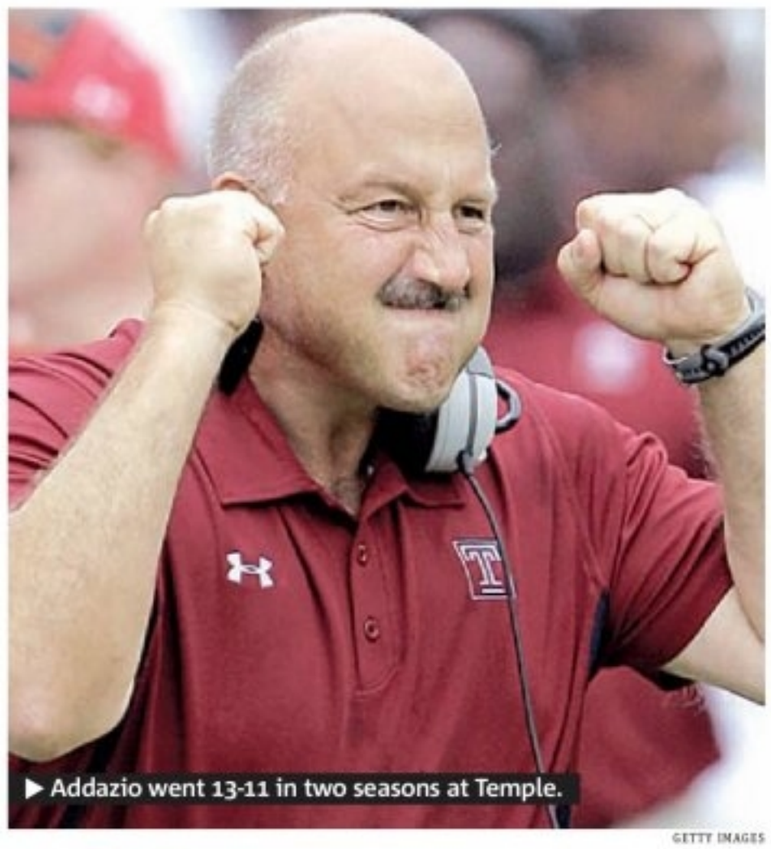
Last week, after failing to qualify for a bowl game in his first year guiding Temple in the Big East, Steve Addazio promised that 2013 would be different.

"This offseason won't be a box of chocolates," Addazio warned. "It's 2013 in my mind right now."

Well, when the calendar turns to 2013, it will be completely different for Addazio. The head football coach at Temple resigned yesterday and accepted the same position at Boston College. He takes over a struggling BC program that went just 2-10 last season.

Addazio leaves Temple after compiling a 13-11 record in two seasons, including the school's first bowl win in 32 years. Prior to that, Addazio won two national championships while serving as Florida's offensive-line coach.

"Steve Addazio has done a tremendous job with Temple football in his two years at the university, and we wish him nothing but the best," said Temple athletic director Bill Bradshaw. "Temple football has never been stronger, and I am confident we will be able to attract a high-level pool of candidates for the position and the program will continue its upward momentum."


▶ Addazio went 13-11 in two seasons at Temple.
GETTY IMAGES

Upward momentum was evidenced by Temple's 2012 recruiting class (ranked No.1 in the Mid-American Conference) and by having three Owls (Bernard Pierce, Evan Rodriguez, Tahir Whitehead) get selected in the 2012 NFL Draft.

The school indicated a search for Addazio's replacement will begin immediately. The team opens the 2013 season on Aug. 31 at Notre Dame.

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In the news

Temple to honor Lear

Temple basketball announced it will retire Hal Lear's No. 6 jersey in a half-time ceremony on Jan. 30 at the Liacouras Center.

Lear will become just the fourth player (and the first since 1999) to have his number retired in the 115-year history of the men's basketball program. METRO

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Notices

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Cumberland County

Myra Williams, Plaintiff
vs.
Francisco Williams, SR, Defendant.

To: Francisco Williams, SR
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That the Court enter an order granting the Plaintiff an Absolute Divorce from the Defendant.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than January 12, 2013 and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 5th day of December, 2012.

The Ferguson law Firm
Patricia A. Wilson Ferguson
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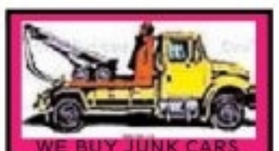

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at home with metro

Housing market, poststorm

Expert Sissy Lappin explains the implications of Hurricane Sandy and the future effects of a rising sea level on the coastal real estate market

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ New Jersey towns along the shore were devastated by Sandy.

▶ This home has been hit with flooding twice.

▶ Pilings are all that remains of the New Jersey boardwalk.

Houston-based real estate broker Sissy Lappin knows all about "superstorms." She saw Katrina's devastation as she helped evacuees at the Houston Astrodome and became a storm victim herself when Hurricane Ike hit in 2008.

"Our neighborhood was the last to get power back; it took over a month," says Lappin, the author of the new home-buying guide, "Simple and Sold." "If Hurricane Katrina, Ivan and Ike aren't sufficient proof of the power of storm surges, Sandy is the poster child," says Lappin.

In the wake of such catastrophic weather events, she says a storm economy springs up. Firstly, the rental market booms: "Rental rates go up. The reason is simple — people have to rent a home while their home is being repaired," she says. Next, the home market slows down. "The first six months are a recovery time. Homes will sell, but at a slower pace."

After six months, however, home sales boom. "The sellers that were going to sell have now fixed their homes, and the buyers are ready to make a move. The pent-up demand is unleashed," says Lappin.

The long-term prospects for the coastal real estate market, however, are not good.

"Storm surges will only get worse as sea levels continue to rise. We are seeing properties that had never flooded now suffering every two to three years," says Lappin. "The values of these properties will continue to decline, and more areas will be zoned in the flood plain. And once they are in the flood plain, they never come out."

Flood zones

Lappin explains why people build their homes in areas prone to natural disasters.

"You have to ask why anyone would take the financial risk of building in an area that could flood. The answer? The government encourages it with your tax dollars," says Lappin. "These homes are insured by the federal government's National Flood Insurance Program." Why is the government in the insurance business? "Because the fourth-largest lobbying group, the National Association of Realtors, spent millions of dollars making sure the federal government makes this insurance available so homes still can be bought and sold in these communities."

LINDA CLARKE
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Fairmount Park decks the historic halls

When it comes to Christmas decorations, Philadelphia has plenty of houses that go above and beyond, from South Philly's infamous light shows to inflatable Santa lawn infestations in the Northeast. And while no Philly decor tour would be complete without a two-story animatronic Grinch, nestled in Fairmount Park are some lower-key gems that are just as much a part of the city's festive fabric.

Running through this weekend, the Charms of Fairmount Park Holiday Tours invite visitors into five of the park's historic houses, which are decked out for the holidays.

"People forget that these historic sites were once lively with children and families and celebrations," says Bill Gehrman, marketing director for The Historic Houses of Fairmount Park. "These are what we call park houses — they were built in the 18th century by some of the most prominent Philadelphians as summer escapes."

▶ Houses on the tour use greens from the park.

This year's tour circuit includes Laurel Hill, Lemon Hill, Mount Pleasant, Ormiston and

If you go

The Charms of Fairmount Park Holiday Tours will take place Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission to each house is $5 (children under 12 are free) and free parking is available at each site. Guided trolley tours ($40) will depart from the Art Museum on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For more info, visit www.parkcharms.com.

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Want to see some serious holiday decorations? Five of the park's mansions are hosting open houses this weekend

▶ Now this fireplace is what Santa is talking about.

Go green this year

Skipping the LED reindeer? Stop by Strawberry Mansion Sat.-Mon. (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) for a fresh greens sale. Decor and gifts include juniper and magnolia wreaths.

Woodford mansions. Hosts will be on hand to talk about the history and architecture of each house, and family-friendly activities include colonial reenactors, music and even a holiday tea service at Woodford.

MONICA WEYMOUTH
monica.weymouth@metro.us

Just opened

C. Wonder opens at KOP

Unless you have a team of elves, you'll be making at least one trip to the King of Prussia Mall in the coming weeks. While you're there, check out the brand new C. Wonder. We're loving the clothing and accessories store's line of holiday home products, from design-forward gifts to Christmas decor you won't want to pack away.

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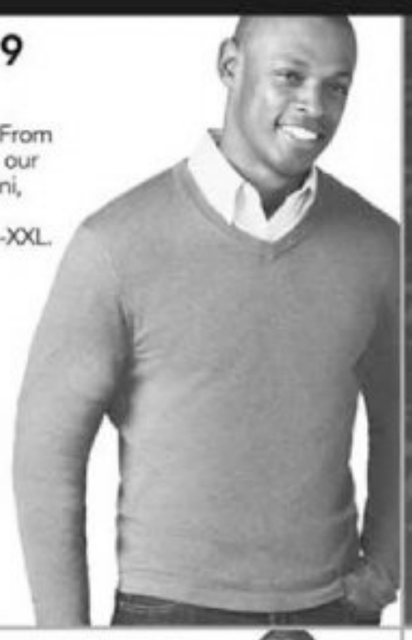
Reg. 39.50-$70. From Geoffrey Beene, our Club Room, Alfani, Via Europa & American Rag. S-XXL.



ONE DAY SALE

TODAY IS THE DAY!
SHOP 8AM-MIDNIGHT!
30%-60% OFF
GREAT GIFTS FOR HIM, HER & HOME

60% OFF
DESIGNER WINTER COATS
Reg./Orig.* $245, **sale $98.** Calvin Klein, Laundry by Shelli Segal, more. Down or wool blend. Misses.
★ WebID 725148.

50% OFF
GEOFFREY BEENE
Reg. 52.50-$55, **sale 26.25-27.50.** Dress shirts or ties. Shown:
★ WebID 648891.

50% OFF
SPORTSWEAR
Reg. $29-$99, **sale 14.50-49.50. Only at Macy's.** From Charter Club, Alfani, Style & Co. & Elementz. Misses & petites. Women's prices slightly higher.

50% OFF
SWEATERS
Reg. $39-$99, **sale 19.50-49.50.** From Cable & Gauge, our Style & Co., Alfani, Karen Scott and more. Misses and petites. Women's prices slightly higher.

50% OFF
SLEEPWEAR
Reg. $42-$55, **sale $21-27.50.** Sale in progress! Pajamas, gowns and more selections from Hue, our Charter Club, Jenni by Jennifer Moore & more.
★ WebID 734865.

SALE 79.99
COATS
Reg. $195-$250. Tommy Hilfiger, Hawke & Co., Perry Ellis, London Fog®, Weatherproof® & more in parka & more styles. S-XXL.

SALE 79.99
PHILIPS NORELCO POWER TOUCH
Reg. 179.99. Aquatec shaver with contour following system. #AT814.
★ WebID 666148.

60% OFF
FLANNEL BEDDING
Reg. $40-$260, **sale 15.99-103.99. Only at Macy's.** All Martha Stewart Collection™ sheet sets, comforter covers & accessories. Cotton. Twin-king.

SALE 14.99
JUNIORS' SWEATERS & SWEATER DRESSES
Reg. 29.50. From Planet Gold, It's Our Time & more.

50% OFF
BOOTS FOR HER
Reg. $59-$169, **sale 29.50-84.50.** From Bandolino, Nine West, Aerosoles, our Marc Fisher, Style & Co. & more. Tall boot shown:
★ WebID 737106.

40% OFF
ALL JUICERS
Reg. 29.99-539.99, **sale 17.99-323.99.** Shown: Cuisinart. #CJE-1000.
★ WebID 466892.

60% OFF
ALL THROWS
Reg. $30-$600, **sale 11.99-239.99. Only at Macy's.** From Charter Club, Martha Stewart Collection™ and Hotel Collection.

ALL†† FINE JEWELRY 30%-50% OFF
+ EXTRA 20% OFF SELECTIONS
Shown, 1/2 ct. t.w.‡ diamonds in 14k gold & sterling silver: necklace (★ WebID 687753), ring (★ 687752) or earrings (★ 687754). Reg. $800, **final cost $299. Plus, take an extra $100 off when you buy the 3-pc. set.**

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$10 OFF ALL SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL AND SELECT HOME ITEMS!

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Excludes: Everyday Values (EDV), specials, super buys, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, electrics/electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services, macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value and may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be $25 or more, exclusive of tax and delivery fees.

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➤ REG. & ORIG. PRICES ARE OFFERING PRICES AND SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. SOME ORIG. PRICES NOT IN EFFECT DURING THE PAST 90 DAYS. ONE DAY SALE PRICES END 12/5/12. MERCHANDISE WILL BE ON SALE AT THESE AND OTHER SALE PRICES NOW THROUGH 1/1/13, EXCEPT AS NOTED. *Intermediate price reductions may have been taken. ‡All carat weights (ct. t.w.) are approximate; variance may be .05 carat. Savings off reg. prices. ††Does not include watches, designer collections, fashion jewelry or diamond engagement rings. Extra savings are taken off already-reduced prices; "final cost" prices reflect extra savings; does not apply to Everyday Values, super buys, specials or trunk shows. Jewelry photos may be enlarged or enhanced to show detail. Fine jewelry at select stores; log on to macys.com for locations. Almost all gemstones have been treated to enhance their beauty & require special care, log on to macys.com/gemstones or ask your sales professional. Orig/Now and Special Purchase items will remain at advertised prices after event and are available while supplies last. Advertised merchandise may not be carried at your local Macy's & selection may vary by store. Prices & merchandise may differ at macys.com. Electric items shown carry warranties; to see a mfr's warranty at no charge before purchasing, visit a store or write to: Macy's Warranty Dept., PO Box 1026, Maryland Heights, MO 63043, attn: Consumer Warranties. ★ Enter the WebID in the search box at **macys.com** to order. N2110184.

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